Lizzie G. Braley West Hill

THE LITTLE PILGRIM

"We will go up by the King's highway."

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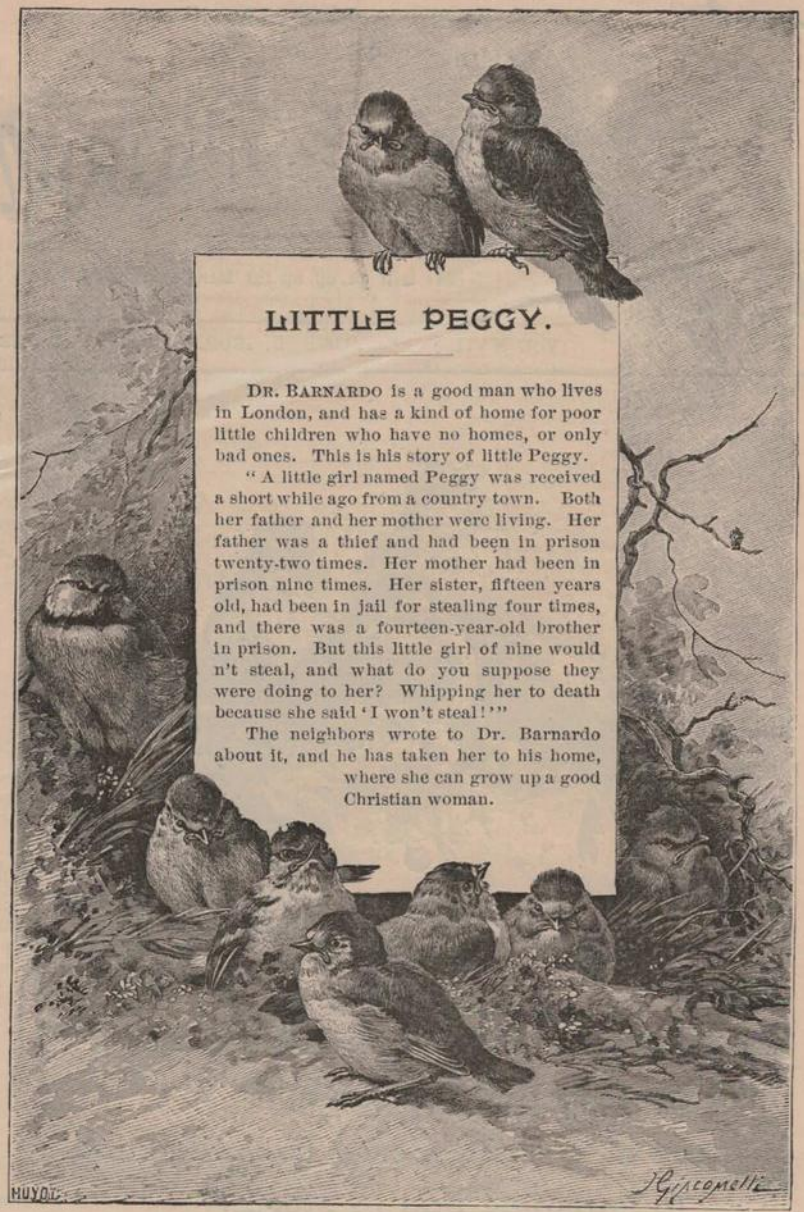
"They hop out of their little nests,
So cozy and so warm,
And sing their merry morning tune
In sunshine and in storm."

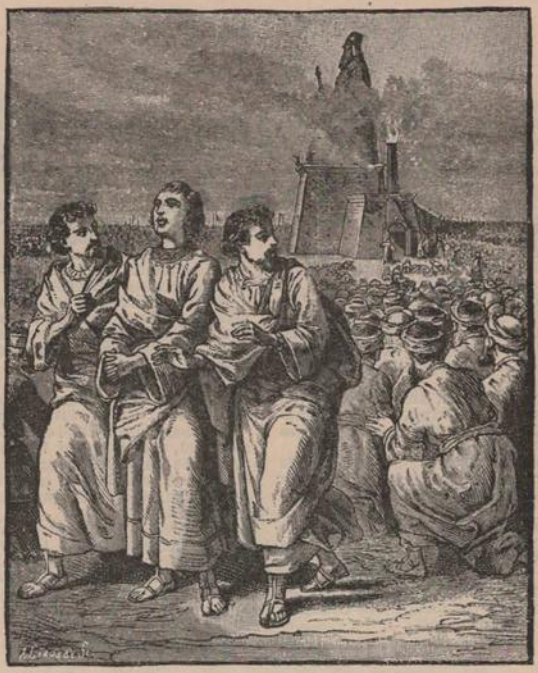


LITTLE PEGGY.

DR. BARNARDO is a good man who lives in London, and has a kind of home for poor little children who have no homes, or only bad ones. This is his story of little Peggy.

"A little girl named Peggy was received a short while ago from a country town. Both her father and her mother were living. Her father was a thief and had been in prison twenty-two times. Her mother had been in prison nine times. Her sister, fifteen years old, had been in jail for stealing four times, and there was a fourteen-year-old brother in prison. But this little girl of nine would n't steal, and what do you suppose they were doing to her? Whipping her to death because she said 'I won't steal!'"

The neighbors wrote to Dr. Barnardo about it, and he has taken her to his home, where she can grow up a good Christian woman.



LESSON STORY.

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR made a great golden image and said that any one who did n't fall down and worship it should be thrown into a fiery furnace. Of course these Jews could n't do that. They were not going to worship idols, or pretend to. So they turned their backs on the golden image. Pretty soon somebody came and told the king. He was very angry, and called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and asked them what they meant by it. He gave them another chance, but said if they did n't do as he said, nothing should save them from the fire.

The only answer he got was that they would n't do it. "God can save us," they told him, "if he will. But whether he does or not, we are not going to serve your image." So the king had them put into the fiery furnace. But the fire did n't hurt them. Instead of three men, the king saw four walking in the fire, and he saw that their God had come to save them. They were taken out, and not even their clothes were burned or had any smell of fire on them. After that the king never troubled them about their religion.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—Isaiah 43: 2.

BIBLE LESSON.

The Fiery Furnace.

13. ¶ Then Neb-u-chad-nez/zar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Sha/drach, Me/-shach, and A-bed/ne-go. Then they brought these men before the king.

14. Neb-u-chad-nez/zar spake and said unto them, *Is it* true, O Sha/drach, Me/shach, and A-bed/ne-go, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15. Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well:* but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16. Sha/drach, Me/shach, and A-bed/ne-go, answered and said to the king, O Neb-u-chad-nez/zar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17. If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19. ¶ Then was Neb-u-chad-nez/zar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha/drach, Me/shach, and A-bed/ne-go: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20. And he commanded the most mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Sha/drach, Me/shach, and A-bed/ne-go, *and* to cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace.

21. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha/drach, Me/shach, and A-bed/-ne-go.

23. And these three men, Sha/drach, Me/-shach, and A-bed/ne-go, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24. Then Neb-u-chad-nez/zar the king was astonied, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.—DANIEL 3: 13-25.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. Who were cast into the fiery furnace? *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

2. Who were they? *The three Jewish friends of Daniel.*

3. Why was the king angry with them? *Because they would n't fall down before his golden image.*

4. Why would n't they? *Because that would have been worshiping idols.*

5. What happened to the men who threw them in? *The heat of the furnace killed them as soon as they came near it.*

6. What happened to the three faithful Jews? *Nothing; God kept the flames from hurting them.*

7. What did the king see? *Four men walking in the fire.*

8. What did he think about the fourth? *That he was their God, come to save them.*

9. What did he do? *Took them out of the fire and never troubled them any more.*

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